

SECTION: REMARKS

This reply is submitted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §132 and 37 C.F.R. §1.111. The Office Action was carefully considered by the undersigned attorney and applicant. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

1. Summary of the Office Action.

The restriction and election were indicated.

Claims 1-10 were pending.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Mihail (4,789,016).

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Hirsch et al (6,220,312).

Claim 10 was objected to but found to contain allowable subject matter.

2. Discussion.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the finding of allowable subject matter in this application.

Applicants acknowledge the election.

Claim 1. This claim was rejected under 35 USC 102 over Mihail and Hirsch et al. Applicants amended the claim to incorporate all of the limitations of dependent claims 10 and 9. Claim 10 was objected to, but was found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the

limitations of its base claim (and any intervening claims). The amended claim is believed to be patentable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested. Applicants note that amended claim 1 is a version of originally submitted dependent claim 10, merely rewritten in independent form. Thus, no limiting amendment is made and no limitation on the scope of the language of dependent claim 10 is intended or should be considered made. Dependent **claims 10 and 9** are cancelled in view of this amendment.

Claims 11-15. These claims are cancelled as being previously withdrawn and non-elected.

3. Conclusion.

The claims pending after this amendment are believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above. The amendments are believed to be supported by the specification, claims and drawings as filed. It is believed that this case is now in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that telephone communication would advance the prosecution of this case to finality, he is invited to call at the number below.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a), provided a Petition is not submitted separately.

Please charge any fee due not paid by a check or credit card provided herewith, and/or charge any underpayment in any fee, and/or credit any overpayment in fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-2381.

<u>Any fees due are calculated as follows:</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Fee</u>
TOTAL claims remaining over that previously paid for:	None	\$0
INDEPENDENT claims remaining over that previously paid for:	None	\$0
	SUM claim fees:	\$0
EXTENSION fees:		\$55.00
OTHER fees:		\$0
	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT (if any)</u>	\$55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid by enclosed check.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paid by enclosed Credit Card Payment Form(s) PTO-2038.		

Respectfully submitted,



Joel D. Skinner, Jr.
Reg. No. 33,786

Date: 8-15-05

Skinner and Associates
212 Commercial Street
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016
Tel.: (715) 386-5800
FAX: (715) 386-6177

cc: Gary Olson (For Records)